

The Burlington Free Press.

NOT THE GLORY OF CESAR; BUT THE WELFARE OF ROME.

BY H. B. STACY.

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Washington Feb. 2.

The Senate to-day again took up Mr. Benton's resolution to appropriate the surplus revenue for purposes of national defence. Mr. Buchanan concluded his protracted remarks in favor of this resolution. He made one admission which may be considered of importance. He said that there was every prospect that through the accepted mediation of the British government, our difficulties with France would be amicably adjusted. He still urged the propriety of adopting measures of defence, and of repairing and extending the fortification of the country.

Mr. Crittenden of Kentucky obtained the floor next to Mr. Buchanan, and spoke for nearly two hours without notes to a crowded and delighted audience. As this was the debut of Mr. Crittenden in the Senate, much curiosity was manifested to witness how he would acquit himself, and whether he would come up to the high estimation which Mr. Clay has necessarily expressed of his abilities. A general buzz of approbation was heard through the hall when Mr. Crittenden after his speech took his seat. As a speaker he evinces the graceful vivacity of Pre-on with much of the energy and solidity of Webster. His manner is rather courtly and sincere than vehement and startling. His arguments were enlivened with many flashes of genuine wit, which engaged the attention and secured the good will of his audience. He touched lightly upon the subject of the loss of the Fortification Bill, and remarked that the failure of that measure did not appear to be attributable either to the Senate or to the House but to the "unconscious" errors, with which certain persons were afflicted very naturally at the watching hour of night, when that bill was lost. He did not wish to indulge in any further conjectures as to the "ways and means" by which the measure was defeated. With regard to our positions with respect to France, Mr. Crittenden said that Country owed us money which for an insufficient reason she refused to pay. On which nation did the dishonor rest? Certainly not on ours. Apply the case to individuals, and it would be the same. The blame would fall upon the creditor, who for insufficient reasons refused to pay his just debts.

As soon as Mr. Crittenden had concluded his adjournment was moved and carried. He has, by his exhibition of eloquence and talents in his speech to-day, placed himself on an elevation with the very first men in the Senate. His style of speaking is unusually popular and agreeable. In person, Mr. Crittenden is of ordinary stature, and of size. His eyes constitute the only remarkable feature in his face, and they give an intellectual cast to his whole countenance. Their expression is searching but benevolent, and they are overlying by thick eye-brows, from under which their flashes are sent forth with extraordinary effect. Mr. Crittenden is a consistent and decided opponent of the present administration. He will be a welcome presence, which, if in the course of events it shall be reduced to a minority, will be one of the most formidable and efficient minorities, that ever strove against the assumptions of undelimited power.

In the House, the first hour was occupied in the presentation of petitions from different States. At one o'clock in pursuance with a recent resolution of the House the general appropriation bills were called up. A resolution was introduced directing the Committee of Ways and Means to consider the propriety of adopting some system for regulating the mileage of the members. A discussion ensued in which some personality was mixed up with much stupid declamation. The abuses in the present system of calculating the mileage of members are very great. Eight dollars for every twenty miles in travelling from their residences to the seat of government is the sum which members are now allowed. The consequence is that some members from distant States are in the habit of taking circuitous routes, by rivers or canals, or of making constructive journeys, and charging for a thousand miles of travel, when by regular mail route they might have shortened their journey by hundreds of miles. Instances were mentioned to-day, wherein members starting from the same place, had shown on arriving at Washington a difference of two hundred dollars in their charges for mileage. The system is obviously one, which calls for reform. A check should be put upon such opportunities of abuse.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.

The proceedings of Congress to-day were of but little interest. In the Senate Mr. Mangum, of N. Carolina, made an eloquent and able speech in opposition to Benton's resolution for the disposal of the surplus revenue. In the House, a long discussion was had upon a question of precedence. A bill from the Senate abridging or regulating the tenure of certain officers under government came before the House, and it was moved to refer it to the committee on the Judiciary, where it might be conveniently studied without any question being asked. Another motion to refer it to a select committee occasioned considerable debate, in which Messrs. Bell, Sutherland, Thomas, and Phillips, took part. Mr. Phillips of Massachusetts made a spirited ex tempore speech in favor of the reference to a select committee. The day's session was occupied with this discussion.

All fears of war with France appear to be dispelled by the acceptance of the proffer of mediation from England. It is surprising to witness the revision of feeling upon this subject. A week since, and the war-whoop was sounding loudly throughout the administration with vigorous wreaths. "Now are our brows twined with victorious wreaths." Gentlemen who prated vehemently of national honor and "all that sort of thing," have become wonderfully pacific and gentle. They neither talk so big nor look so bellicose as has been their custom. "Grim-visaged" has been smoothed his wrinkled front.

The weather here for the last four days has been intensely cold, and we have had very tolerable sleighing. Last evening a great hail was had at the new theatre. The pit was boarded over and appropriate decorations were hung overhead. All the fashion and beauty of the place, with two or three marked exceptions, were present. The ball passed off to the general satisfaction of all, but the theatre was badly heated, and the dancers were obliged to redouble their exertions in order to keep from freezing.

There is little gossip of interest afloat in the political world. Stevenson has been nominated to the mission to England, and Eaton to that to Spain. The probability is that both these nominations will be confirmed, although not speedily acted upon. If the administration obtain a majority in the Senate, which is yet an improbable contingency, of course there will be a serious enough to confirm Tanev and Kendall. It would be of no use for the Senate to reject these nominations now, as they would be instantly renewed upon the arrival of the new Van Buren Senators.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.

Mr. Calhoun presented a voluminous report from the Select Committee, appointed to consider that part of the President's message in relation to the prevention of the circulation of incendiary pamphlets in relation to slavery, by mail, &c. The report in substance, states that the Committee, after conferring with the President in his sentiments of regret at the efforts which have been made by the fanatics, in disseminating their poisonous tracts, have come to the conclusion, that Congress cannot adopt the measures recommended by him. They take a comparative view of the powers reserved in the Alien and Sedition laws of 1798—considering them to be identical in the same, and to be an interference with the rights of the several States. The President's recommendation in substance was to prevent the circulation in the southern States, through mails, of incendiary publications intended to instigate the slaves to insurrection. The committee are of opinion that if they admit the right to prevent it would admit the right to circulate, and hence follow the admission of the right of Congress to abolish slavery, or interfere in the internal condition of the States, a matter which exclusively belongs to the States themselves. After an argumentative train of reasoning they recommended to Congress instead of the measure recommended by the President, a bill prohibiting Deputy Postmasters knowingly to receive and put into mail any pamphlet, newspaper, handbill, or other paper, printed or written, or pictorial representation touching the subject of slavery, addressed to any person or post office, where by the laws of the State, &c. their circulation is prohibited. The Sec. 2, authorizes the Postmaster General to dismiss all persons offending in the premises and to be fined—at discretion of the court on conviction. Sec. 3, repeals acts of Congress, protecting agents of the Post Office Department in cases of being convicted under this act. Sec. 4 and 5, provided that the Postmaster General shall furnish to the Deputies the State laws, for their government, and shall instruct them, &c., and make it imperative on them to furnish an account of all pamphlets, &c. deposited, so that they may be withdrawn by the depositories, or burnt, or otherwise destroyed. The bill was read, and ordered to a second reading. On motion of Mr. Mangum, 5000 extra copies of the report and bill were ordered to be printed. After which, Mr. Davis said, he desired to state that he did not assent to all the views in the report, but he did not consider the matter of sufficient importance to render it necessary for him to give his views on it. There appeared to have been a difference of opinion on the part of the Committee, a majority of whom, however, had agreed to various portions of the report, and to the bill.

Mr. Mangum made some brief remarks on Mr. Benton's resolution, and was followed by Mr. Clayton, of Delaware. He differed from many of his friends, advocating the necessity of putting the country in a state of defence, with or without reference to the affair with France. He considered the latter in a critical condition, because if France persisted in demanding such an apology or such an explanation as was intimated, they all knew the President never would assent to it; and although he himself was not now, nor would be, a partisan of his, he was bound in his conscience to say he never would consent that he should apologize or explain to any foreign power for any thing contained in his message to Congress. The Constitution made it obligatory to send communications of them, and although there were topics in the message which he could not approve, yet it was his right nevertheless to speak frankly, and be he friend or foe, he would ever stand by him in maintenance of that right against any foreign power the principles, that they had a right to call for explanations, was to surrender the independence of the government. Just as well, he urged, might the French government claim the right to demand an explanation of his, or any other Senator's sentiments in Congress, as of the President's. Even if the result of the mediation, which they hear of, was to tell the President he should make the apology, who supposed he would make it for them, or any power on earth? He contended that the three million amendment was unconstitutional, and he asked Mr. Buchanan, whether he would consider an amendment granting ten times that, in terms, viz: "for the civil, military and naval service" constitutional? Mr. Buchanan, however, blinked this question, not deeming it necessary to go beyond the present case. Mr. Clayton went on to remark the hue and cry raised against Mr. Webster, for having said, because he believed that the amendment was unconstitutional, that he could not vote for it if the enemy were battering the Capitol, and upon the statement of Mr. Adams, that he who said

so, "had but an easy step more to take, that was to join the enemy." He would leave to Mr. W., he said, the task of defending himself, but he could not help saying, that all that could be inferred, or ought to have been inferred from it, was, that Mr. W. preferred the preservation of the constitution, to that of the capital. This was the head and front of his offending, no more; and where, he enquired, was the man who believing as Mr. Webster undoubtedly believed, that such an amendment was a violation of, and a surrender of the constitution, that would not surrender the Capitol rather than it? Where was the traitor—where the coward that would come forth and say, under any circumstances, he was willing to surrender the great charter of their liberties? They had in history examples to warn them. There was a Cyprian who advised the Athenians—who advised the preservation of their Capitol, at the expense of their liberties. He met his reward, and was stoned to death by an enraged people; and such should ever be the fate of those, who deemed the preservation of a parcel of stones and mortar more important than their liberties. If such a sentiment should come from one, who owed to the Senator from Massachusetts, and his friends, the eminent station which he enjoyed in political life, if such a reflection was made by one who, in the hour of greatest need, was supported and strengthened by the Senator from Massachusetts, he meant to say, that such a denunciation did not stand in point of moral character, one fighter by comparison than that of Clay himself. If the denunciation was made as such, he did not believe that it was owing to any promise of place or emolument or honor by the party in power; for he believed they could not, would not, trust a man who so acted. All they could do for him, would be to dub him, "traitor," and by that name, through after life he would doubtless be distinguished.

This is a feeble and hurried outline of the most cutting rebuke Mr. Adams as yet has had to endure. More and more he will have of it.

Mr. Clayton had not closed when the Senate adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.

Both Houses of Congress were to-day occupied principally upon private bills; and the discussions were of but little interest. In the lower House, Mr. Reynolds attempted to introduce a resolution approving of the President's late message recommending the prohibition of French products and the entry of French vessels at our ports. As it required a suspension of the rules, and orders to consider the resolution, Mr. Reynolds failed in his attempt to introduce it. He evidently did not have his cue from the leaders, who have of late adopted a very pacific tone towards France, and are aware of the unpopularity of at present agitating the subject of our relations with that country. It would be a work of supererogation as the mediation of England has now fortunately adjusted our difficulties, and all apprehensions of war have subsided.

A project has lately been started here for removing the seat of government from the District of Columbia, in order that the District may revert to the States from which it was taken, and the difficulties of the slave question be evaded. Mr. Hennegan in the House yesterday offered the following amendment to an amendment moved by Mr. Anthony instructing the committee of ways and means to provide a mode for equalizing the pay of members of Congress; namely, "that the committee be further instructed to inquire into the expediency of removing the seat of the Federal Government from Washington to Cincinnati or Louisville." This project will not receive much countenance at present, and it is doubtful whether it will be taken into serious consideration for many years. But that it will eventually become a subject of interest and some excitement, there is little reason to doubt.

The question has often been asked: if late in the House, what has become of Mr. Adams' resolution for the appointment of a select committee to investigate the transactions attending the loss of the fortification bill at the last session. It will be remembered that Mr. Bynum of N. Carolina had the floor at the time this subject was last discussed. The obvious intention of the administration party now is to let the matter rest where it is. They will not, if they can avoid it, even give Mr. Adams an opportunity of replying to those, who "have poured their vials of wrath upon his head." The party find they gain nothing by probing inquiry upon the subject of the loss of that bill. The bitter denunciations and reckless defiance of Mr. Wise, and the undeniable disclosures and eloquent apostrophes of Mr. Evans, have not been met on the other side by a single argument that might either controvert or weaken their assertions. Mr. Cambreleng in attempting to reply has only impressed upon his hearers a more imposing idea of his amazing mediocrity; and Mr. Bynum in the sound and fury of his remarks reminded us of nothing so much as of the beat of a drum, now rising into an almost inaudible rumbling. Neither House sits to-morrow. Little has been brought to pass this week, and if business continues to be transacted as it has been thus far, the summer will pass before Congress can adjourn. Four French affairs however are favorably adjusted, a vast amount of time will be saved, which would otherwise have been lost in bitter contentions and protracted discussions.

MONDAY, Feb. 6th.

Another message from the President in relation to our French affairs was communicated to both Houses of Congress to-day. It was quite conciliatory in its tone, stating the fact that an offer of mediation had been magnanimously tendered by England, that it had been accepted, and that a suspension of all action upon the recommendations in the last special message of the Executive was advisable until the result of this friendly

interposition might be known. The President renews his recommendation that the sea-board should be fortified, and that the frontier generally should be put in a condition of defence.

In the Senate to-day, the discussion upon Benton's resolution appropriating the surplus revenue to the defence of the country, was resumed. Mr. Clayton finished his remarks, closing them with a high and merited compliment to Mr. Webster, with whose views upon the subject of the three million appropriation, he expressed his entire concurrence; and who, he said, more than any other man, had maintained and protected the party of the constitution. Judge White spoke about an hour upon the subject before the Senate, and in the course of his remarks ably vindicated his conduct in relation to the fortification bill. Mr. Grandy next obtained the floor, and made a brief speech, which appeared to please Van Buren very much, but the wit of which was not so apparent to the rest of his hearers. After a brief rejoinder from Mr. Clayton Mr. Benton arose, threw back the collar of his coat, and with his accustomed propensity of manner, entered upon a speech. He expressed himself gratified with the discussion which had taken place upon his resolution—was glad that the Senate had shown a disposition to wash their hands of the loss of the fortification bill—disclaimed any intention of exciting a controversy in throwing out the charges which he did—and hoped that his resolution would be amicably adopted. He then launched off into a tirade against the French, and said that the Admiral Mackan might as well have his fleet of observation and intimidation, and tell that however we might wrangle among ourselves, we were "united" when called upon to array our selves against a foreign power. He then said some severe things of the Duc de Broglie, and went into a genealogical history of that nobleman, much to the edification of his hearers. He said that Monsieur le Duc not only wished to wring an apology from Gen. Jackson, but he wanted to dictate the terms of it, and in so doing he had offered one of the "largest indignities" that could be offered to a free people. It was intended not solely as an insult to Gen. Jackson, but an insult to the American people, to this republic, and through this to all other republics on the face of the globe. What pitiful slang. After Benton had done with the Duc, he took up an antique looking volume from his table, and said he would read a parallel instance of a similar aggression with that attempted on the dignity of this country in the history of France. As is usually the case with his quotations, the instance was totally inapplicable. I cannot follow him through the rest of his harangues. It was a repetition of his former rhodomontades upon the subject of his resolution. Mr. Lough had the floor when the Senate adjourned.

Now that our affairs with France are regarded as in a train of amicable adjustment, the slavery question becomes one of more prominence. The subject came up to-day in the House in the shape of a resolution offered by Mr. Pinckney of South Carolina, who is well known as a man of ability, an opponent of the administration, and a nihilist. He sustained his resolution in a pertinent speech, in the course of which he replied to certain attacks made upon him in the Telegraph. The resolution you will find in the Intelligencer. It provides that all memorials now upon the table or that shall hereafter be presented, together with all the resolutions that have been offered, shall be referred to a select committee with directions to report in a manner prescribed. The resolution is an important one, and what is more important, it was adopted. Mr. Wise demanded to be excused from voting upon it. Mr. Hammond spoke against it, and most of our Massachusetts men voted against one or two of its provisions, it being divided into distinct clauses, and the eyes and noses taken on each.—The administration men went for it in a body, with one or two exceptions.

The grand end of human life is to cultivate an intercourse with that Being, to whom we owe life and all the enjoyments which render life delightful, and to maintain an integrity of conduct towards our fellow creatures; that so, by forming piety and virtue into habit, we may be fit members for the society of the pious and the good, which reason and revelation teach us to expect beyond the grave.—Burns.

That knowledge is advanced by an intercourse of sentiments, and exchange of observations, and that the bosom is disburdened by a communication of its cares, is too well known for proof or illustration. In solitude, perplexity swells into distraction, and grief settles into melancholy, even the satisfactions and pleasures that may by chance be found, are imperfectly enjoyed, when they are enjoyed without participation.—Dr. Johnson.

There is not a single dispensation of Providence which, if properly viewed, will not afford an excellent lesson. Never repine at the good fortune of others; for many are they who wish to be raised to your situation.—Persian Poet.

DISCRETION. There are many more shining qualities in the mind of man, but there is none more useful than discretion; it is this, indeed, which gives a value to all the rest, which sets them at work in their proper times and places, and turns them to the advantage of the person who is possessed of them. Without it, learning is pedantry, and wit impertinence; virtue itself

looks like weakness; the best parts only qualify a man to be more sprightly in his errors, and active to his own prejudice. Addison.

GALILEO, the most profound philosopher of his age, when interrogated by the Inquisition as to his belief in a Supreme Being, replied, pointing to a straw on the floor of his dungeon, that from the structure of that object alone he would infer with certainty the existence of an intelligent Creator.

If you have a good law cause, refer it, if a bad one, try it.

Never keep a carriage, or a country seat until you are independent, and can leave your wife and children so.

WINTER.

The cheerless season of the Winter is as full of instruction to the religious and thinking man as the other seasons. All in magnificent succession awaken the purest sentiments of piety in the human heart.—The thrilling & exhilarating green of Spring—the genial and joyous warmth of Summer—the grateful abundance of Autumn, and even the inclemency of hoary Winter—each suggests their appropriate topics of gratitude to Him, who from his throne on high "remembereth the things which are in heaven and on earth." Perhaps we learn the most ennobling lessons of religion from the storms and clouds of Winter. The splendid variety of nature is no more—the gay livery of earth is hidden from our sight by a snowy mantle, and even the light of the sun himself is obscured. Driven thus from the contemplation of things external, we turn to higher and better objects of thought. Other seasons draw our attention to the earth we inhabit—but this exhibits to our wondering eyes myriads of other worlds and naturally leads the mind to the contemplation of heavenly things; and even (such is human frailty) to speculations as sinful as they are presumptuous.

No language (Revelation excepted) is so plain and so readily understood as the language of Nature, and at no season does she speak so forcibly and solemnly to the heart as in the season of Winter. She tells us in the buried flowers—in the icy stiffness of the trees—in the snowy coverings of the fair and beautiful vines of Summer—of decay written by the finger of God upon all his works. We are thus warned that as wave succeeds wave, so generation succeeds to generation, and that we must mingle with our native dust. The little prattler of to-day soon fills our place in society, and the tenders of earthly affection are severed at our departure only to be transferred to our successors. But it teaches a nobler lesson—it tells us that the buried vine will soon in renewed beauty wave its delicate leaves in the breath of Summer, and the tree-mantled trees soon put forth their strength and beauty, and that we too, having left our chrysalized shell to moulder in its native earth, shall wing our flight to worlds above. "The mighty resurrection of nature have been these six thousand years, annually giving to men their eloquent teachings," and the glorious powers God thus annually exerts are not yet marred—not even subject to decay. He has thus taught us that while every natural object seemed dead, the principle of vegetable life was still unceasingly operating and preparing silently this earthly resurrection—and that in his wise government there exists no evil.

"When gathering clouds around we view,
And days are dark and friends are few,"

He tells us in the voice of Nature to look upward for support and consolation—that no enemy hath done this, but that if an additional mantle of ice grief is thrown over us, it is only to assist the "principle of life" in so renovating the system as to prepare it for its glorious resurrection.—The year of nature is an emblem of the year of the soul, and while we see the wisdom of the present evil to the plants and trees of the earth, shall we not also believe in the wisdom of afflictions to the soul?—While the natural objects of sense are annually dying, a man still lives and sees the beginning, life and end of miriads of the inanimate creature of God.

Let then, the storms of Winter blow, and the ice mantle still cover the earth; they are the signs of the same Father who beautifies the Spring and the Summer, "and crowns the year with his goodness." They are to us as evidences of that kind hand which makes the "incontinent evil productive of final good," and teaches to look through Nature to its God. The natural winter is but typical of the moral winter, and amid the weaknesses of age assures us that a spring shall visit the grave, and every man arise to be judged according to the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or whether they be evil.

Burlington (N. J.) Gazette.

From the Silk Culturist.

HARD TIMES.

Some farmers are so habituated to fault finding that let seasons be ever so favorable, crops ever so abundant, and prices of produce ever so high, they will still complain about hard times. They also assign them as reasons for "pulling up stakes" and moving west where man is doomed to "eat bread by the sweat of his face." They say, land which in "old times" could be bought for "forty shillings" an acre, is now selling at fifty and sixty dollars—that corn which used to be sold for "half a crown," and oats at "a pistareen" a bushel, are now selling, the former at a dollar and the latter at sixty two and a half cents, and that every thing else is proportionably high—that, in short, the times are so hard they must go to Illinois or Michigan, where land can be bought "for a song," and where roast turkeys and fricasseed chickens are skipping about and begging to be eaten.

We accidentally met one of these grumblers a few evenings since. He was an old acquaintance, a farmer, from a neighboring town. After the customary salutations and enquiries respecting the health of his family, we asked him if there was any thing new. He said there was "nothing stirring" except hard times, and he supposed that was no news. We informed him that we had not been aware that the times were hard; but on the contrary, had supposed they were unusually easy, especially with farmers. He replied that we were "mightily mistaken"—that the times were so hard that farmers found it very difficult to maintain their families and raise money enough to pay their taxes and for himself he was so embarrassed that he must "sell out" and go where land was cheaper and better.

We expressed our regret at finding him in straitened circumstances, and tendered him every assistance in our power in extricating himself from his difficulties. We told him we were laying in our winter supplies, and would take some of his produce off his hands and pay him the money for it—that if he would bring us in a few cords of two foot wood, we would give him three dollars a cord for it; but he said he had none to spare, having already cut off so much "to buy necessities" that he could soon have to buy for his own fire. We told him we wanted a few loads of hay, for which we expected to pay eighteen or twenty dollars a ton, but he said his grass land had almost wholly "run out," and his crop was so light that he should probably have to buy for his own stock by the middle of March. We offered him a dollar a bushel for corn—sixty two cents for oats—twenty five cents for butter, &c. &c. He said they were great prices; but he was one of that unfortunate class of beings, who when it rained porridge, always had their dishes bottom side up—that he had none of these things to sell, but had them all to buy for the support of his family.

We enquired about his farm, and the assistance he had in cultivating it. He said he had one hundred acres of what was once "tolerable good land;" but it was "worn out" and would not pay the expense of cultivation—that his house was "a leaky old thing," the roof of which he had been trying to cover for eight or ten years; but could not as yet get money enough to buy shingles—that he had three stout boys at home of twelve, fourteen and sixteen years of age, and that they all had to "work like dogs" to "bring the year about," and after all "it was a tough match to make the buckle and strap meet," and some years they did not meet at all, in which case he was obliged to "go on tick."—He imputed his difficulties wholly to the times—reprobated extravagance in females dress—expatiated with considerable warmth on the evils of pride, and wound up his story, by sighing out that it was "terrible hard times."

We told him that he had fully satisfied us that it was indeed hard times, so far as times concerned him—that he might go to Illinois, Michigan, or any where else, and rest assured they would follow him, unless he "turned over a new leaf," and that he might as soon expect to get rid of "original sin" as poverty in the course he was pursuing. That if he wanted better times to stop grumbling and go home—shingle his house—brush up his farm—and remember in future to always have his dish right side up.

A doctor visiting a patient, a lady, requested to look at her tongue. She opened her mouth and put the end of her tongue out. The doctor said "put it out a little farther, madam;" and was under the necessity of repeating it several times, the lady only putting her tongue a trifling distance each time.—at length the doctor remarked: put it out as far as possible, madam. Lord, doctor, (says she) you must think there is no end to a woman's tongue."